

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 100

By Lollar

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of W.S. "Babe" Howard of Millington.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and remember the life and many accomplishments of Mr. W. S. "Babe" Howard, who passed away on July 11, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Millington, W. S. "Babe" Howard was a highly respected member of his community, having earned recognition as a prominent businessman, civic leader, and philanthropist; and

WHEREAS, a member of America's greatest generation, Mr. Howard proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Europe, seeing duty as a member of the Honor Guard under General Dwight D. Eisenhower during the occupation after the war prior to receiving his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard received national recognition as president and general manager of Millington Telephone Company for over fifty years, earning the respect and admiration of his peers in the industry who chose him to serve as an officer of the Tennessee Telephone Association (TTA) for over thirty years and the State Telephone Executive Secretaries Association for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, a founder and officer of the Organization for the Protection and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies (OPASTCO) beginning in 1963, Mr. Howard served as director of the United States Telephone Association (USTA) for nine years and was a

past director of both the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association (ITPA) and the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) Telephone Bank Board; and

WHEREAS, a legend in the Mid-South area for his unrivaled support and sponsorship of area athletic teams, especially baseball, Mr. Howard built USA Stadium in Millington, which was the official training site of USA Baseball from 1988 until 1998 and which hosted the American Legion World Series in 1989 and the NJCAA-II World Series in 1993. He was presented the Honor Award for his contributions to amateur baseball by the Amateur Baseball Coaches Association in 1996; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, W. S. "Babe" Howard rendered sterling service as an Alderman for the City of Millington for nineteen years, including service on the Beer Board, and as a member of the Millington Planning Commission, the Shelby County School Board, and the Millington Municipal Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, a friend to the environment, he was a past Chairman of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) and was instrumental in saving Ghost River, part of the Wolf River, from destruction; he also served on numerous TWRC boards, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, and the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation; and

WHEREAS, an active participant in numerous community organizations, Mr. Howard was a member of the Millington Chamber of Commerce, former director of the Millington United Fund, founder and former director of Millington Crime Stoppers, and longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Belle Memorial Association; and

WHEREAS, always willing to aid his community, Mr. Howard made numerous contributions to many civic and community projects and organizations including the U.S. Navy, the University of Memphis, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the City of Millington, the Girl and Boy Scouts of America, and individual area schools to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, inducted into the Memphis Society of Entrepreneurs in 1998, Mr. Howard was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Navy League, the Lions Club, and was a Scottish Rite Mason; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he was named Man of the Year by both the Millington Chamber of Commerce and the South Tipton County Chamber of Commerce; Boss of the Year by the Millington Jaycees; and he received the Humanitarian

Award from Governor Winfield Dunn and the Silver M Award from the University of Memphis Athletic Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was also deeply devoted to his family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in April 2002, his beloved wife of over fifty-three years, Ann Anderson Howard, passed away; they had been married since September 1948; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard is survived by his four children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, W. S. "Babe" Howard leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of W.S. "Babe" Howard, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Howard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.